

Serial No. 10/653,558
Docket No. HARTING P202-14
Amendment B under Rule 116

REMARKS

Claim 9 has been amended to obviate the §112 rejection. No new matter has been added by this change.

The rejection of claims 5-12 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Metz et al. (US Patent 6,045,390) is in error. Independent claim 5 requires "[a] connector insert [and] a retaining body ... being adapted to be locked in place in the module mounting device." Independent claim 9 includes a similar requirement. Metz et al. does not teach this element. Metz et al. teaches a connecting device using jacks 28 on the printed circuit board (PCB) to connect the modules (Column 4 lines 12-20).

Metz discloses a connection or junction box for shielded cables and at least one jack into which a terminal plug can be inserted.

These differences are further illustrated by Fig. 4 of Applicants' application, in which there is illustrated a plug-in connector comprising several modules 1, 3 mounted side by side in a mounting device 40 surrounded by a casing 50 or residing in a connector casing 52. Furthermore, in Applicants' claimed invention the connector casing 50 is plugable with the connector casing 52.

Applicants' claimed invention allows for the exchange of different art within the mounting device and the casing. This is not shown by Metz.

Furthermore Applicants' connection system is designed for an industrial application with an IP65 protection (specification, page 1, lines 22-24) - it is not an interface for use in the office.

Thus, Metz cannot achieve nor render obvious claims 5-12.

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It is submitted no claim amendments have been made which would require further search or consideration by the Examiner. Thus, entry of the foregoing amendment, and allowance of the application, are respectfully requested.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION VIA FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to EXAMINER Phuong K. Dinh of the United States Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number (703) 872-9306, on February 2, 2005 from Tucson, Arizona.

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